

A Drop of HP SAUCE is worth a bottle in peacetime

Unobtainable in London and the S.E. Counties

BLACK OUT
LONDON
6.30 p.m.—6.41 a.m.
PLUMMOUTH
7.9 p.m.—6.29 a.m.
BIRMINGHAM
6.30 p.m.—6.22 a.m.
(Supplied by Auto-modem Association)

No. 3284 63rd Year
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1944

OVER 3,000,000 CERTIFIED SALE

[Registered at the G.P.O.
as a Newspaper]

2D.

Hodges' Armour Driving Into Cologne Plain**After Sudden Collapse Of German Defences North Of Aachen****ALLIED TANKS ARE CLEAN THROUGH SIEGFRIED LINE**

From Special Correspondents with the First Army

Saturday night

GEORGE HODGES, WHOSE FIRST AMERICAN ARMY HAS BROKEN CLEAN THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE NORTH OF AACHEN, TONIGHT HAS A SPEARHEAD TEN MILES WIDE AND NINE MILES DEEP INTO GERMANY. IT IS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH BY BOTH TANKS AND INFANTRY, AND TO-NIGHT IS DESCRIBED BY A STAFF OFFICER AS "DEFINITELY A BREAKTHROUGH, AND NOT A GERMAN WITHDRAWAL."

After smashing through the resistance which had been frenziedly piled up by the Germans, the American forces surged forward in a great sweeping drive, rent a big gap in the Siegfried Line and captured, among other border towns, Alsdorf, three and a half miles south-east of Uebach.

Alsdorf's fall means that a corridor only about six miles wide remains open through which the Germans can retreat between that town and Aachen; and has placed Allied tanks astride important communications centres.

Tonight the advance continues. Tanks, guns and supplies are pouring along the dusty roads behind the spearhead; and it is doubtful if the enemy is able to muster sufficient strength to halt the drive to the east.

Tilburg's Fall Imminent**Threat To Island Forts Grows**From DESMOND TIGHE,
Reuter's Special Correspondent

21st Army Group H.Q., Saturday.

WITH the fall of Tilburg, vital Dutch communications centre, imminent, Von Rundstedt's island fortresses off the Dutch coast are today faced with an immediate and double threat.

The Scheldt Islands are reported to have the most formidable German defences yet met by Allied troops.

North-west of Antwerp, Cambrai division has been ordered to cut off the causeway leading to the three heavily defended islands of Waarden, Nooit Bevallen and Oude Bevallen. Another force from the neck of the Berge Op Zompen peninsula, leading to the sea, has reached the town of Oudeinde.

At the same time British troops are standing at the gateway of Tilburg, the last major German bastion in the centre of the town—after fighting two miles forward against a powerful German rearguard which is strong enough to fight for every inch of ground.

With cup-like rims the Dutch island fortresses make enclosed stretches of land which are bristling with a variety of anti-aircraft guns, mortars and pillboxes. There is no doubt that the German garrisons have been given every opportunity to last. It seems certain that fierce fighting lies ahead before this seaward area is cleared.

SWIMMING ACROSS

The Nijmegen area has been fairly quiet since the first day but with some air divisions at their disposal there is evidence that the Germans are trying to move their strongest reinforcements to the last. It seems certain that fierce fighting lies ahead before this seaward area is cleared.

Huns Send Repatriates To Front

BE NEAR NORDEN

Additional Photo Correspondent

GERMANY

REPRISALS—German prisoners of war are being sent back to the front in direct violation of the Geneva Convention.

Conclusive evidence of this has been gathered in Holland. It is a general recognition of Hitler's repatriation situation.

A young fair-haired corporal captured only yesterday was sent within hours to the German frontier told his story.

The American attack carried through a terrific punch. The tanks, supported by heavy artillery, went into action and smashed ahead.

STOOD AND FOUGHT

GERMANS IN THEIR CAVE

The Germans were breaking through. They did not withdraw.

They stood and fought until they could not hold the U.S. army.

Effect on our troops was electric.

Their tanks, which had broken through the Siegfried Line, there was almost a jaunty air up through the dust clouds that followed upon them.

These formations moved up then passed hundreds of prisoners on their way to the rear and swelled the total to 2,000 officially reported to have been captured in the first week.

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uncanny patterns of white and orange explosions, and the whole scene was to be filled with screeching metal.

"We went on, got the target, downed the road, turned for home. But Jerry had us. I did all a man could to get us."

"I was sweating with a cold anxiety; it had never been as bad as this before. And then, on the intercom, Denny called. For my sake, skipper's sake, wept or not, we'd be all right if we got it!"

"We hadn't a chance. Both outer engines were on fire. Denny crawled along to me and around the turret and half the tail were shot away. The rest of the boys were out or dead. I was hit. I told Denny to get away. He cuffed me over the ear and said good folk in this page a week or so since: I told this youngster that he had been shot down that morning. And of the letter, and the enclosures, I had sent to him."

"I told him more. I told him of my shipmate, the man of Devon, and of how he died. I told him that the time I joked with me about keeping that Little Book in my pocket."

"Denny once had told me that if he felt the need of a friend, he could chase a rabbit or a mouse, or even his own Christopher."

"And I told him, too, of how at the eleventh hour, when my shipmate's mouth was parched and his tongue swollen through lack of water, he had still done no more than mouth the words he wished to speak, he had done no more than mutter them, by his shaking hands on the Little Book."

"The youngster had said, 'I wish I could read that story again.'

Lady I. wish

Denny had

modestly like

we are to Faith

when Faith

we don't all possess the LIVING

Faith. So offer our Faith is a

I said would he like to read a

copy of my story; he seemed to

like it. Then he said,

"We've almost won this war;

please God it will be the last

of many battles to come."

A talk often saves a soul from

panic, and that's the way I've

been.

Then I heard someone say,

"Those are lovely words. They

taste like great lesson, that

Liberty and Freedom must be

carried; they are prizes to be

won. That's what you can't just be confined on people,

like titles or medals or decora-

tion. Peace, Am. Freedom. And

Liberty, Peace with freedom, and

the like. That's the kind of gift

to man."

"That's why war has to be fought," he said. "That's why I was always telling Denny. But he'd never agree with me, he said war was the answer, and I said, 'No, the excitement any man could have'.

"But Denny was wrong. Denny didn't know that he'd lost everyone, from everyone. I think it was because his parents deserted him when he was born, and he was born in blankets on somebody's doorstep. And Denny grew up denying that he had any love or faith in life as Faith. You couldn't blame him."

HIDING HIS REAL THOUGHTS

"You see, it wasn't really until last night that I realised the full truth of it all. Old Denny had to be told to do something, to take some active force, an action we could contemplate the coming day as the Master saw them: 'Go Thou in peace.'

"I blundered again, offering the words of the Old Lady. He said:

"I'd like to meet you again, to talk to you again, to tell you how you're home from the sea. But I couldn't read that story."

"Yes, I'm blind. I

don't want anybody's sympathy;

I thank God for my blindness;

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"But a fellow's soul is sometimes a bit like a child's. He can contemplate the coming day as the Master saw them: 'Go Thou in peace.'

"I blundered again, offering the words of the Old Lady. He said:

"I'd like to meet you again, to talk to you again, to tell you how you're home from the sea. But I couldn't read that story."

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